

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE JUDICIAL CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, June 11, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Sen. Stuart C. Reid  
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Michael E. Christensen, Director  
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Jennifer Christopherson, Legislative Secretary

**Members Absent:**

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to close the meeting for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, and physical or mental health of the judicial candidate. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Mayne and Sen. Urquhart absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to open the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Urquhart absent for the vote.

**2. Interview of Ms. Renee M. Jimenez-Justice**

Ms. Renee Jimenez-Justice was placed under oath by Mr. Christensen. She introduced her family and friends in attendance and thanked the committee for the honor of appearing before them. She provided a personal and professional background statement to the committee. She spoke about her family and professional experience and said that she learned the importance of fathers during her experience in the juvenile court system. She responded to questions from the committee concerning creative solutions, the divorce process, parental rights, and the importance of putting people at ease in the courtroom.

Ms. Jimenez-Justice stated that she has no racial or ethnic prejudices and that she has nothing in her past that would be detrimental to herself or to the office that she would hold. She stated that as a prosecuting attorney she is not allowed to speak with the parents without the permission of their attorney. She explained the process for the termination of parental rights.

Ms. Stephanie Mair, parent, explained that her parental rights were terminated due to a messy house and that her two youngest children were placed in foster homes where they were molested. She stated that her disabled daughter is now in a wheel chair as a result of abuse in foster care. She said that she hoped that Ms. Jimenez-Justice would take a more personal approach when making her decisions involving other people's lives.

Mr. Nicholas Hansen, citizen, explained that Ms. Stephanie Mair is his mother and that Ms. Jimenez-Justice terminated his parents' rights wrongfully. He stated that his Division of Child and Family Services representatives told him that they were set up to fail.

Ms. Denise Huddleston, citizen, said that when her niece lost custody of her children, the Attorney General's Office would not approve Ms. Huddleston to take custody of the children.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Ms. Jimenez-Justice be confirmed as a judge for the Third District Juvenile Court. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Other Items / Adjourn**

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.